



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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11/16/2020

**EXAMINER**

ART. UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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16 of 63

**PAPER NUMBER**

**DATE MAILED:**

UNIVERSITY

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

## **Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	08/876,322	Robson et al.
	Examiner	Group Art Unit
	I. Cintins	1724

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

**P r i d f r Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

**Status**

Responsive to communication(s) filed on March 5, 1999.  
 This action is FINAL.  
 Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-17, 20-22, 24 & 25 is/are pending in the application.  
 Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-17, 20-22, 24 & 25 is/are rejected.  
 Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Pri rity under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)**

- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All  Some\*  None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Attachm nt(s)**

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_  Interview Summary, PTO-413  
 Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892  Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152  
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Acti n Summary**

Art Unit: 1724

Prosecution before the primary examiner is hereby reopened in order to consider Applicants' amendment originally filed September 18, 1998, and resubmitted March 5, 1999. The Final Rejection dated November 6, 1998 is withdrawn.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 17 is vague, and indefinite as to the process interrelationships between the recited retention of transformer oil on paper, and the liquid purification treatment of parent claim 1.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 1724

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Brink. (U.S. Patent No. 3,900,334). See col. 1, lines 43-47 and 61-68.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-16, 20-22, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sohnies (U.S. Patent No. 3,607,741) in view of Brink. The primary reference discloses removing oil from water with a cellulosic material which has been modified to render it hydrophobic (col. 1, lines 28-30; col. 2, line 13). Accordingly, this reference discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the specific cellulosic material employed. Brink discloses a lignocellulosic material of the type recited, and further teaches (col. 1, lines 12-14) that this material has "excellent strength and dimensional stability characteristics, including resistance to moisture." It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the lignocellulosic material

Art Unit: 1724

of the secondary reference for the cellulosic material of the primary reference, in order to obtain the advantages disclosed by this secondary reference (i.e. improved stability and moisture resistance) for the product of the primary reference.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins whose telephone number is (703) 308-3840. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

The fax phone numbers for this art unit are: (703) 305-3599 for "Official" faxes after Final Rejection; (703) 305-7718 for all other "Official" faxes; and (703) 305-3602 for "Draft" and other "Unofficial" faxes.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

*Ivars Cintins*  
**Ivars C. Cintins**  
**Primary Examiner**  
**Art Unit 1724**

I. Cintins  
March 30, 1999